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the immediate use of the inhabitants. Yet the products of its tanneries and leather workers, dyers, and iron forgers, as well as the beautiful embroideries made in the town, are much sought after.

The French occupation greatly disturbed the commerce of the place, but Arabs and Soudaness are becoming reassured, and for the last six matter.

The French occupation greatly disturbed the commerce of the piace, but Arabs and Soudanese are becoming reasoured, and for the last six months of 1894 the Imports from the south declared to the French officials, amounted to \$160,000, and those from the north for five months to \$80,000, while for the month of January, 1805, the figures were \$62,000 and \$30,000. As the declarations are purely voluntary, M. Dubots estimates that these sums representiess than a third of the true figures.

Despite its attuation, lowever, Timbucton

Country—The Raitrond from the Senegal.

Stanley's great discovery of the Congo region less than twenty years ago has so dwarfed all subsequent feats of African explorers, and so turned away attention from the first goal of African discovery, that an event which a generation ago would have aroused the enthusiasm of all Europe has taken place almost as a matter of course, barely attracting attention. In January, 1804, a year and a half ago, French troops from Senegal took possession of Timbuctoo, the mysterious commercial capital of the Niger region from which Mungo Parx, the first of the great explorers, was turned back, and which since his day only five white men had visited; Major Laing in 1825, Rene



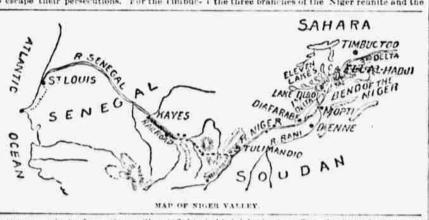
Caillié in 1879. Barth in 1853, Oscar Lenz in 1880, and Capi, Caron in 1887. Though driven out by the Tuaregs almost immediately. lon, and last winter sent M. Felix Dubois to report. He recently got back to France, having made the return trip of 1,500 miles from Timbuctoo to the coast in the recent time of fortyivedays, and his first article in Le Figure, from which are taken what is likely to be interesting to American readers and the accompanying its

The decline started at the beginning of the century, with the expulsion of the Moors from Timbuctoo by the Fulahs, Constant wars followed, and no sooner did the Fulahs feel that their power was secure than they were at-

tion. Wherever the land rises alrays the level of the inundations rise vidages, and on one of the larger clevation; is bis-one, the chief market place of the district, where are gathered all the products of the valley that are to you tilthate, too. Caravans come there, too, from the north with sait, from the south and each with kelanus, it has a class of rich, churchel, and in-



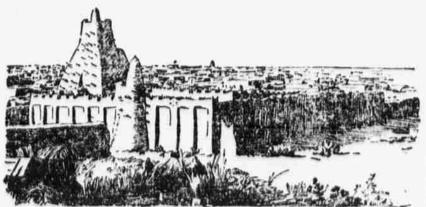
ral canals. A peculiar feature of this district is the great series of eleven lakes lying to the west of the rivers, and senarated from thom and from each other by these of hills. Their existence was unsuspected by Europeans, though Oscar Lenz must have passed quite close to them, till Liout, Hourst of the Niger flottilla came usen them, a few mouths ago. They cover an immense extent of territory and except the cover an immense extent of territory and except the cover an immense extent of territory and except the cover an immense extent of territory and except the cover an immense extent of territory and except the cover an immense extent of territory and except the cover an immense extent of territory and except the cover an immense except the cover and their power was secure than they were attacked by the Tuaregs, who have held the country for thirty-five years, and have only recently been driven out by the French. Fulahs and Tuaregs exacted a large tribute from the merchants of Timbuctoo, and the extortions of the tours of Timbuctoo, and the extortions of the tours of Timbuctoo, and the extortions of the tours of Timbuctoo, and the insecurity to the taravan routes caused by their robber bands, Tuey have been a veritable sconge, treating Timbuctoo like a conquered town, and leading the inhabitants to abandon their homes in order to escape their persecutions. For the Timbuctoo, the three branches of the Niger facilita came upon them a few mouths ago. They cover an immerse extent of terms and the transport of the Niger facilita came upon them a few mouths ago. They cover an immerse extent of terms and the transport of the Niger facilita came upon them a few mouths ago. They cover an immerse extent of terms and the transport of the Niger facilita came upon them a few mouths ago. They cover an immerse extent of terms of terms and the transport of the robust of the robust of the robust of the niger facilita came upon them a few mouths ago. They cover an immerse extent of terms and the transport of the robust of the robust of the robust of the robust of the niger facilita came upon them a few mouths ago. They cover an immerse extent of terms and the sum of terms and the transport of the robust of the robust of the robust of the niger and each other, some all the year round, and the robust of the ro



tooans are only traders; they will not fight; they have no besitation in saying. "We are but women." The emistration from the city mass been very great. The French found in it only p.000 inhabitants, but this noto are all, men, women, and children, born merchants. The men attend to the wholesale business, the women to the retail trade; wholesale or retail, every one in the town is either a merchant, a communication again, or a drummer.

Tine men attend to the wholesale business, the women to the retail trade; wholesale or retail, every one in the town is either a merchant, a communication again, or a drummer.

Timbuctoo's communer is divided into two cleany delived parts, that from the north and that from the south. The exravans from the north and that from the south. The exravans from the north and that from the south. The exravans from the miles and the two cleans are of the free content for the property delived parts, that from the morth and that from the south. The exravans from the miles and the two saids of the unitary and transfer in the later than the neutron of the one of the Nuer and to the whole ton of the Nuer and to the swell has to the swell hand to the waster from the tax shie genge of Thosen, eight to the south a total the stream of the stream from the two stells from the neutron of the care and the first the two stells from miles of the south of the stream from the entering the total south the first the creation of the Nuer and to the bream the below influence and that from the south the miles of the whole the whole land the the waster from the total trade of the whole the whole land the two trades of the Nuer and to the bream to the interest to the south of the Nuer and to the stream from the total trade of the whole the whole land the the waster from the total waster from the two stellar to the trade of the Nuer should be to the steam from the south of the Nuer and the the waster from the total waster from the south of the Nuer and to the water from the total waster from the total waster from



on the backs of camels across the desert, but the camel does not cross the river.

From the south merchandise is carried to points on the Niger above Timbactoo by oven, asses, or on men's heads. It is then embarked on camoes and fatboats and floated down to the city. Timbactoo has three harbors on the river is cross the river.

Kabara, five miles off, which can be reached when the river is at its highest from January to April to July, and Korlame, above Day, about four miles from Kabara on initio of the river, where canoes land from April to July, and Korlame, above Day, about four miles from Kabara, which they can reach when the river is very low. The main staple brought by the negron merchantis is grain, milies, rice, and a little wheat; but the krima also, besides many vegetables, kels must spiner, increase, soan, tobacco, hidea and sheepakins, native cotton cloth, very fine and strong; strips of fine cotton brillianity dyed in indigo, which is used for turbans; blue and white or many-colored blankins; blue and white or many-colored blankins; large work, pottery, ostrich feathers, very, gold, bar iron from san and mass few manufactures beyond those needed for large manufactures and the plantation, the fine handston, the fine sample can detect the first admit the largest and content to a recitive of the camer, for it immentation, the presence of the camer, for it immentation, the presence of the camer, for it immentation, the presence of the camer, for it is mentation, the presence of the camer, for it

from Auril to September, but instead of making the heat more intolerable by an enormous increase of himidity, as on the coast, the rains in the Niger Valley initiated the heat and lover the temperature as in Europe.

To being Timbucton and the fertile country basek of it within reach of European markets, the chief difficulty is that of transportation; the difficulty that blocks the Compo and checks the development of the country about the great African makes. Correls no trouble on the Niger and African makes. Correls no trouble on the Niger and African makes. Correls no trouble on the Niger and European markets, the development of the country about the great african makes. To the Niger and Station Six Prisonage Stati

THE FRENCH ARMY.

Complaints that the Private Soldiers Are Too Young and the Generals Too Old.

Important changes in the French army are being urged by French newspapers and military experts. The agitation springs in part from the discovery of serious defects in the present organization, the existence of which has been demonstrated by the expedition to Madagascar, and it attracts the greater attention because the oft-repeated prophecies that the great European war is at last at hand are heard once more. The prophet in the present instance bides himself behind the signature of "Capt. G. G.," and writes in the Nouvelle Revue that the outbreak threatens to come in 1890-97. He arenes that Germany will endeavor to profit by the temporary advantage given her by recent laws increasing the effective strength of her army and by its equipment with improved artiflery. Her plan suld be to attack France before Russia's preparations for war are completed, which will not be for several years. Russia's railroad facilities are not great enough to oblige Germany to concentrate a large force upon her frontier, and before the armies of the Czar were ready to move Germany would have time to make a supreme effort to crash France. The French critics are therefore urging the necessity of increasing the efficiency of the army without delay, so that the forces of the republic may be prepared to withstand the shock.

One of the most serious defects shown by the experience in Managascar is the fnability of the French War Department to exercise ordinary foresight. The expeditionary corps has been held back in the miasmatic swamps and forests of the coast, where its strength is being sapped by fevers and dysentery, solely by the lack of sufficient means of carrying supplies. No fewer than 4,800 wagons of a special type were sent along with the expedition to carry supplies, but they are useless, because no practicable roads vere found upon which they could be hauled, No wharf was provided for unloading the vessels carrying supplies. Even so essential a drug as

latong with the expedicion to carry supplies, but they are university to the control of the production of the control of the c

part of the numster. From Black Lake, on the south side of the St. Lawrence, the source of the reports has been transferred to Lake Wayn-Railway and the St. Manrice River, and well within the region visited by so many American anglers every summer. The truth of the last report is vouched for by L. E. Hoy, who is well known in scientific circles, and by two guides, Mercier and Marcheterre, All three are re-

garded as well worthy of confidence. The three men say that, while they were fishing in the take, large bubbles rose to the surface, the water became foamy, and then there aphigh the lake, brigo busine rose to the surface, the water branne foamy, and then there appeared at the centre of the troubled expanse an enormous stake-like head. This was followed soon by a long, sintons body, fully three feet in the groundergase and sevents five feet long. Mr. Rey storped belong. Although the came was some Unity water from the moustier, the conditional could also from the moustier, the conditional could also from the moustier, the conditional could also from the moustier. The creatize evidently was discomposed by the presence of the came, and the victors eyes. The creatize evidently was discomposed by the presence of the came of it immerinately cave vent to a series of hissing sential reared its creat, and thrashed the water with us tail.

Mr. Hoy ordered his man to return to came, beauting to their pandiles, they made the little craft spin toward the share. The serient rubed after them. When the came grated on the beach feet hostile discombinated. He came to the log came and secared his rife. Taking as careful aim as the excited condition of his herves permitted, he tred shot after shot at the reality. In a lost only seemed to take effect. As it struck the report it cave a loader hiss than usual and sank out of sight.

The bake near shore soon after became discolori with blood. Rue and the guides remained watching for hours, hop up that the deal body of the mouster would rise to the surface. They were downed to disappointment.

according to the Father, has driven out of the region by severe actions three other companies, two French and one English, and has earned, by alleged brutality, the hatred of the natives, Father Dubendorf reached the region when this feeling was at its most intense point, and the natives were ripe for revenge.

When the request of the King that Na

thamel be sent to Brass reached the Father he determined to accompany the boy, lest the latter be detained in captivity by the King, and in time relapse into barbarism. The journey was successfully accomplished, and the Father found Brass a considerable town of palm-leafthatched huts. Some had great platforms to catch rain water, because the water of the river at that point is peculiarly unwholesome. The King, clad in a silk robe, a crayat of like material, and a feit hat, received the Father most graciously, offered him lodging, and invited him to share the royal table. The King, who, the missionary takes pains to tell, was once a pupil of a Protestant mission, was now an old man of venerable mien, but abundant strength and activity. Near the King's great house was a house built on a European pattern and covered with zinc. It was comfortably furnished with European chairs and tables, and had a coal oil lamp. There were glasses and mural decorations. The King's supper was an elegantly served meal in the European style, and the Father, knowing that earlier Kings of Brass had been notable barbarians, could hardly believe his senses.

Early the next morning the Father called on

the King, but learned that he was too busy to be seen. Waiting an hour, he was astonished to see the King come forth from a council with the chiefs, naked save for an ornate breech clout, painted, with white rings under his eyes, a musket in his hand and a knife in his belt. The benevolent old King of the night before was transformed into a savage of feroglous aspect, Sixty canoes laden with arms were drawn up along the river bank, and the King was waiking back and forth delivering incoherent orders. At the sound of a cannon he hastily gave the Father his hand, bade him live

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She—111 marry you, George, if you can satisfy father that you can support me.

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